

FBI

Date: 4/17/74

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau telephone call to Memphis, 4/16/74.

Enclosed for the Bureau are original and 4 copies of LHM dated and captioned as above.

No local dissemination is being made of this LHM.

As set forth in enclosed LHM, information contained in Memphis files reflect that for several days prior to 4/3/68, the date of KING's arrival in Memphis, members of his staff were registered at the Lorraine Motel, and KING himself upon his arrival at Memphis went directly to the Lorraine Motel and registered. There is no indication whatsoever that he was registered at the Holiday Inn Rivermont or that he had any intention of staying at the Holiday Inn Rivermont on his 4/3/68 trip to Memphis.

ICRD

ICRU

4/19/74

U-70 F.

SCL:njg

3 - Bureau (Encs. 5)

2 - Memphis

HSL:mrp

(5)

ENCLOSURE

REC-115

APR 19 1974

APR 24 1974

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

M

Per _____

U.S. Government Printing Office: 1972 - 455-574

MURKIN

to McCall and Front Street, and at this point the car was surrounded by approximately 50 individuals, all black.

[REDACTED] cleared the crowd from around the Pontiac and asked the driver of the Pontiac where he wanted to go. The driver stated he had Rev. King in the back seat, that he had to get away, and asked the officer to escort them to the Hotel Sheraton-Peabody.

[REDACTED] explained that due to the rioting they could not get to the Peabody Hotel and asked if they desired to go to another place. The Negro driver stated, "Just get us away from trouble."

[REDACTED] then escorted the car containing Dr. King to the Rivermont Motel where [REDACTED] went to the desk clerk and asked if she had space for five Negroes, including Rev. King. The desk clerk told [REDACTED] the Negroes could remain in the lobby and an effort would be made to obtain a room for them.

[REDACTED] stated that a room was found for Dr. King and his party of four and that this group checked into the Rivermont Motel at 11:24 A.M. on March 28, 1968.

On March 29, 1968, [REDACTED] advised that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., spent the night of March 28, 1968, at the Rivermont Motel and at 2:30 P.M. on March 29, 1968, he and his staff were escorted by the Memphis Police Department to the Memphis Municipal Airport where Dr. King left Memphis via Eastern Airlines for Atlanta, Georgia, at 3:20 P.M. on March 29, 1968.

On April 1, 1968, [REDACTED] Inspectional Bureau, Memphis Police Department, advised that the following members of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) staff were in Memphis and currently registered at the Lorraine Motel: R. B. Cottonreader, James Orange, Rev. Jesse Jackson, and James L. Bevel.

Hosea L. Williams, Director of Voters Registration, SCLC, advised [REDACTED] on April 1, 1968, that Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., would arrive in Memphis April 2, 1968, staying at the Lorraine Motel and that a mass march would be held April 5, 1968, led by Dr. King.

MURKIN

On April 3, 1968, [REDACTED] advised that Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., and his aides Ralph D. Abernathy, Bernard Lee, and Andrew M. Young arrived at Memphis Municipal Airport at 10:15 A.M. from Atlanta, Georgia, via Eastern Airlines. According to [REDACTED] Dr. King was met by local SCLC leaders James Morris Lawson and Mrs. Thomas Matthews.

According to [REDACTED] a security detail of the Memphis Police Department was on hand to escort Dr. King; however, upon approaching Mrs. Thomas Matthews this security detail was informed that the SCLC had not requested police protection and that the security detail was not welcome. This security detail contacted Rev. Lawson and asked as to Dr. King's schedule so that security could be arranged, and Lawson stated that he did not know what Dr. King's schedule was.

Dr. King and his group were taken by private car to the Lorraine Motel where they were registered.

[REDACTED] advised Dr. King spent the night of April 3, 1968, at the Lorraine Motel and was at this motel at the time he was shot at approximately 6:00 P.M., April 4, 1968.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.